

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### ***In the Claims:***

A listing of the claims is as follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiple beam scanning device for scanning a plurality of light beams across a light receiving member, the multiple beam scanning device comprising:  
  
an array light source including at least a first and a second a plurality of a sub-array light source sources, the second sub-array light source being used whereas the first sub-array light source remains unused, each sub-array light source the second sub-array light source being configured to emit emitting a plurality of light beams with independently modulatable modulated light intensity, wherein the first sub-array light source may be functionally substituted for the second sub-array light source; and  
  
an optical unit that converges the light beams emitted from any one of the first and second sub-array light sources and simultaneously scans the light beams in parallel and with equidistant spacing across the light receiving member.

2. (Currently Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
  
a detection unit that detects when the second a presently used sub-array light source of the plurality of sub-array light sources is defective[[,]] while the second presently used sub-array light source is presently emitting the plurality of light beams to be scanned by the optical unit; and

a switching unit configured to switch from the second that switches a sub-array light source to the first use from the presently used sub-array light source to a different one of the plurality of sub-array light sources when the detection unit detects that the second presently used sub-array light source is defective.

3. (Currently Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the detection unit includes a light detection unit that detects light intensity of each light beam emitted from the second presently used sub-array light source, the detection unit detecting that the second presently used sub-array light source is defective when the light detection unit detects that the light intensity of at least one of the plurality of light beams emitted from the second presently used sub-array light source is outside a predetermined range.

4. (Currently Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the array light source further includes a common base for each all of the at least first and a second sub-array light sources, and each of the at least first and a second sub-array light sources include including the same number of semi-conductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

5. (Currently Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the semi-conductor lasers of each of the at least first and second sub-array light sources are arranged in a first direction, and each of the at least first and second the sub-array light sources is are arranged in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A multiple beam scanning device for scanning a plurality of light beams across a light receiving member, the multiple beam scanning device comprising:
- an array light source including at least a first and second a plurality of a sub-array light source sources, the second sub-array light source being used whereas the first sub-array light source remains unused, each sub-array light source the second sub-array light source being configured to emit a plurality of light beams with independently modulatable light intensity wherein a first sub-array light source may be functionally substituted for a second sub-array light source of the plurality of sub-array light sources; and
- a drive unit configured to drive that drives the a selected one of the sub-array light source of the first and second sub-array light sources to emit the light beams, wherein a selection unit connects the selected sub-array light source to the drive unit.

7. (Currently Amended) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a detection unit that detects when the second selected sub-array light source is defective, wherein the selection unit selects the first sub-array light source a different one of the sub-array light sources when the detection unit detects that the second currently selected sub-array light source is defective.

8. (Original) The multiple beam scanning device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the array light source further includes a common base for all of the sub-array light sources, each of the sub-array light sources including the same number of semi-conductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

9. (Original) An image output device comprising:

a light receiving member; and

the multiple beam scanning device of claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) The image output device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the multiple beam scanning device further includes:

a detection unit that detects when the second a presently used sub-array light source of the plurality of sub-array light sources is defective, wherein the second presently used sub-array light source is presently emitting the plurality of light beams to be scanned by the optical unit; and

a switching unit that switches a sub-array light source in [[to]] use from the second presently used sub-array light source to the first a different one of the plurality of sub-array light sources when the detection unit detects that the second presently used sub-array light source is defective.

11. (Currently Amended) The image output device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the detection unit includes a light detection unit that detects light intensity of each light beam emitted from the second presently used sub-array light source, the detection unit detecting that the second presently used sub-array light source is defective when the light detection unit detects that light intensity of at least one of the plurality of light beams emitted from the second presently used sub-array light source is outside a predetermined range.

12. (Original) The image output device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the array light

source further includes a common base for all of the sub-array light sources, each of the sub-array light sources including the same number of semiconductor lasers formed integrally on the common base.

13. (Original) An image output device comprising:

a light receiving member; and

the multiple beam scanning device of claim 6.

14. (Currently Amended) The image output device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the multiple beam scanning device further includes a detection unit that detects when the second selected sub-array light source is defective, and the selection unit selects [[[a]] the first different one of the sub-array light source sources when the detection unit detects that the second currently selected sub-array light source is defective.

15. (New) The multiple beam scanning device of claim 1, where any sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources may be functionally substituted for any other sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources.

16. (New) The multiple beam scanning device of claim 6, where any sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources may be functionally substituted for any other sub-array light source of the at least first and second sub-array light sources.